GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3329
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2007
LPG AS ALTERNATIVE FUEL
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to make LPG cylinder available in the rural areas particularly in the villages close to forests;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether the Government would consider in its national forest policy to make LPG cylinders easily available in village as an alternative; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (d): LPG is a clean and environmental friendly fuel. Use of LPG has progessively increased to cover nearly 48.6% of the country's population as on 31.3.2007. Public Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are serving 9.43 crore (approx.) LPG customers as on 31.3.2007, out of whom 2.15 crores (approx) are in rural areas.OMCs have also introduced 5 kg domestic LPG cylinders with effect from August,2002 in order to meet the demand of low-income groups in urban, semi-urabn and rural pockets and also extend the reach of LPG to the hilly terrain and interior areas in the country on account of convenience in transportation.

The State wise details are available with Directors (Marketing) of OMCs concerned.Government have given freedom to OMCs to set up LPG distributorships in accordance with their commercial assessment and locations are identified by them on the basis of available refill sale potential for sustaining an independent distributorship. However, Government have advised OMCs to draw up Marketing Plans for covering semi-urban and rural areas. OMCs have finalized a common industry marketing plan covering 841 locations for setting up LPG distributorships mainly in rural and urban-rural (semi-urban) locations.